that the people living in Avadi have been petitioning to the Government for the past seven years for the formation of a panchayat for the area whose population exceeds 5,000, and if so, what action the Government have so far taken in that direction? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I would suggest to the hon. Member to put the question to the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration.''

SRI R. KRISHNASWAMI NAIDU :—'' தேசீய விஸ்தரிப்புத் திட்டம், சமுதாய அபிவிருத்தி திட்டம், ஐந்தாண்டு திட்டம் முதலியவைகள் கிராம பஞ்சாயத்துகள் மூலம் நிறைவேறியிருக்கின்றன. அப்படியிருக்க பஞ்சாயத்துகளில்லாத கிராமப் பிரதேசங்களில் இன்னும் பஞ்சாயத்து அமைப்பு நிறைவேற்றப்படுவதாக இல்லை. கால தாமதம் ஆகின்றது. இவ்வளவு கால தாமதம் ஆவதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' மறுபடியும் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், இந்தக் கேள்விக்கு ஏற்கெனவேயே பதில் சொல்லியாகிவிட்டது என்று.''

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—'' கனம் விநாயகம் கேட்ட கேள்விக்கு பதில் அளிக்கும்போது ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரியைக்கேட்க வேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார். ஆனால் கம்யூனிடி ப்ராஜெக்ட் ஏரியாவில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டுகளையெல்லாம் கனம் விவசாய மந்திரி பராமரிக்கிறாரா என்பதைக் கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்.''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' கம்யூனிடி ப்ராஜெக்ட் ஏரியாவிற்கு என்று தனி ஆட்சி ஒன்றும் இல்லை. அங்குள்ள போர்டுகளை கவனிப்பதும் அதை பராமரிப்பதும் அந்த ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரி அவர்கள்தான்.''

Pavement dwellers in the City

* 1620 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken steps to find out the number of pavement dwellers in the City of Madras; and

(*b*) the measures to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' (*a*) The Corporation of Madras after a civic survey of pavement dwellers has ascertained their number to be 20,476 comprising 6,492 families.

'' (*b*) The Government have asked the Corporation of Madras and the Collector of Madras to make special efforts to find some vacant-sites in and around centres of the City so that such sites may be provided with some shelter for the pavement-dwellers. The Madras City Improvement Trust has also applied to Government of India for transfer of certain military lands in George Town in order to construct tenements for about 663 families living on pavements and street margins in the Madras Harbour area. The application has been forwarded to the Government of India with this Government's recommendation. The Government are also considering a comprehensive scheme submitted by the Corporation of Madras for the improvement of slums in the city providing also for accommodation of pavement dwellers.''

26th March 1955]

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" May I know what schemes have been submitted by this Government for the rehabilitation of pavement dwellers in the City of Madras? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The Corporation has submitted a scheme which will be forwarded to the Government of India."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" When there are thousands and thousands of such men and women who are adults, have the Government taken any steps to include them in the voters' list and has any census been taken of such persons? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" This is a Central subject. Further, the voters' list is prepared with reference to a particular place."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether a list of those persons has been prepared? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Census has been taken."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" In the plan submitted by the Corporation of Madras, the Corporation has suggested sites in the Kodambakkam area for construction of houses for pavement-dwellers. But these pavement-dwellers are engaged in their daily avocation very near Kothawal bazaar and in other busy areas in the City of Madras. Therefore, will the Hon. Minister instruct the Corporation of Madras to acquire land very near Kothawal bazaar, namely, the military area and other areas lying vacant and to construct houses in those areas instead of constructing houses in Kodambakkam and Guindy which will not be practically useful to these pavement-dwellers? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government will acquire lands where vacant lands are available. According to the scheme submitted by the Corporation, Fifteen thousand families can be accommodated in new colonies. Eight hundred and forty acres of land will be acquired for this purpose. The Corporation does not propose to build houses but only to give developed sites for putting up houses for individual families."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Instead of shoving the responsibility on to the Central Government and the Corporation, will the Government at least earmark grants or loans to the Corporation specially for improving the condition of these pavement-dwellers? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Neither the Central Government nor the State Government are in a position to render substantial financial assistance in this matter to the Corporation except by way of sanctioning loans."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" While appreciating the laudable object of the plan as adumbrated by the Corporation and the Government of Madras, may I know whether the sites proposed to be given

to the pavement-dwellers fall within the area of the Kothawal bazaar and other areas in the City of Madras or whether they are either in Guindy, Adyar or Kodambakkam which will be useless to them?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The Corporation is expected to know where lands are available and which are the best places for providing sites."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—"Is the Hon. Minister aware of the overcrowding of pavement-dwellers in George Town itself, especially, near the Harbour and the Second Line Beach and if so, will the Government give relief to them as soon as possible?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"That is what I have been stating and attempts are being made in that direction."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—"Thousands of persons are living on pavements because they are unable to pay rents for houses and not because they are not able to get housing accommodation. In view of this, will the Government think of constructing tenements and letting them free of rent to these pavement-dwellers?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"It is the responsibility of the Corporation. The rent proposed to be charged is only one rupee."

8-50 a.m SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that most of these pavement dwellers are landless poor people from villages and if so, will the Hon. Minister kindly transfer this subject to the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue and ask him to tackle this problem?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"He is here sitting by my side and he approves of what I have said so far."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"Coming to the question of constructing tenements for pavement-dwellers, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that this particular item was included in the budget submitted by the Corporation of Madras last year and for which they wanted a loan but it was negatived by the Government of Madras? The same kind of request is being made this year also and that item is also included in the new Budget. Will the Government consider it favourably and grant a loan particularly for the construction of tenements for pavement-dwellers in Kodambakkam?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"A separate question may be put."

Aid to dyeing factories

*1621 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any amount is granted for dyeing factories out of the Handloom Cess Fund; and